

FEB 1952 51-444

JCD

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

CLASSIFICATION SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY
SECURITY INFORMATION**INFORMATION REPORT**
REFERENCE CO. REPORT NO. [REDACTED] 25X1
CD NO. [REDACTED] 25X1COUNTRY Bulgaria DO NOT CIRCULATE DATE DISTR. 2 January 1953
25X1 SUBJECT Organization and Procedures of VNOS NO. OF PAGES 6NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO 25X1
REPORT NO.THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE
OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793
AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVE-
LATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS
PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

- 25X1
1. There are three VNOS (Vuzdushno Nahlyudenie Opovestyavane i Svirska; Air Observation, Information, and Communications; i.e. early warning service) regiments in Bulgaria, as follows:
 - a. The 1 VNOS Regiment, with headquarters in Sofia, is responsible for Vidin, the entire Yugoslav border zone, and the Greek border to a point west of Devin;
 - b. The 2 VNOS Regiment, with headquarters in Stara Zagora, which is responsible for the area east of Devin up to the Black Sea, and along the Black Sea to a point north of Cape Emine (N4242 E2754); and
 - c. The 3 VNOS Regiment, with headquarters in Turnovo, which is responsible for the area north of Cape Emine, the Dobrudza border, and the Danube River border.
 2. The VNOS regiments are subordinate to the Ministry of National Defense and are under the command of the Air Force. The Glaven Post VNOS Pobeda (General Headquarters VNOS "Victory") is located in Sofia and is commanded by Colonel Shinovski.
 3. Each regiment includes a regimental staff and 10 companies. Each company is composed of four platoons, each of which is responsible for four observation posts. Every platoon includes a fifth unit which is composed of at least four men who conduct political indoctrination at the posts, and are known as "platoon agitators."

CLASSIFICATION SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

STATE	NAVY	X	NSRB	DISTRIBUTION	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
ARMY	Ev	x	AIR	Ev	x	FBI				

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

-2-

25X1

4. There is a political officer at headquarters in Sofia and one at the regimental and the company headquarters. The platoon leader functions as political officer and directs the "platoon agitators."
5. Each observation post is composed of four men, as follows:
 - a. The chief of the post;
 - b. An assistant to the chief; and
 - c. Two soldiers.
6. The regimental commanding officer exercises his command functions through his staff. The Staff company is directed by the Procurement Chief, or Commandant. The Training Company and the New Recruits Company are directed by the deputy in charge of personnel. The responsibilities in the other companies are as follows:
 - a. The Chief of Staff is responsible for training, personnel, the clerical staff, and duty roster problems;
 - b. The Deputy in Charge of Technical Matters is responsible for all technical equipment problems; and
 - c. The Procurement Chief is responsible for all supply and procurement problems.
7. For daytime observation, the VNOS observation posts have a man placed in a hole 2.5 meters in diameter and .8 meters deep. Within this hole the observer stands on a circular platform which is divided into 360 degrees. The platform has readings of 15, 30, 45, 60, etc. degrees, with the 360 degree position to the north. The observer is equipped with a pair of binoculars. In the vicinity of this post there is another circular hole 1.2 to 1.3 meters in diameter and 1.6 to 1.8 meters deep, which is used for observation at night and during foggy weather. This is called Podslushavatelna Yama (Listening Post). This post is connected with the daytime listening post by a ditch which is covered and camouflaged. The daytime listening post is equipped with a telephone which connects it with a nearby dugout which has radio and telephone communication with the company.
8. Each soldier at an observation post has the following duty hours:
 - a. Two hours as an observer;
 - b. Two hours at the telephone and radio;
 - c. Two hours at standby, awaiting signals from the observer; and
 - d. Two hours rest.
9. When an enemy airplane approaches, the observation post sends an alert to the company. In the company operations center, an officer (Operativen Ofitser) on duty sits at a table with a large map. Also on duty in the center are four soldiers (zapisvayushti; recorders), who write the instructions of the Operations Officer on four blackboards located in the operations center. The recorders work in two-hour shifts. There are five telephone operators on duty, one near the Operations Officer and four in individual, insulated telephone

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

-3-

25X1

booths with small glass windows through which the operators can see the blackboards. The telephone switchboard is of Bulgarian manufacture and has eight to 10 lines.

- 25X1
10. When the switchboard operator has received a message from the observation post, he forwards the message by phone to the Operations Officer, who instructs the telephone operator near him to forward the message to the regiment, and then starts giving instructions to the "recorders", who write these down on the four blackboards. The Operations Officer then orders the telephone operators in the booths to pass on the message. Each booth has a list on its wall showing five places which must be warned of approaching aircraft. [redacted] the list includes airfields, antiaircraft artillery units, factories, etc. [redacted] civilian defense officials, 25X1 are notified. The message is sent in code to military units, and in the clear to nonmilitary offices.
 11. At the regimental operations center there are eight to 10 telephone booths, three additional telephone operators, and a switchboard with 20 lines.
 12. The four observation posts and the company operate on the same frequency in a radio network. When the company radio operator receives the warning message, he passes it on to the Operations Officer. If the company has radio contact with the regiment, the message is sent to them immediately by radio. If there is no radio contact, the regiment is notified by telephone as described above. The radio frequencies are changed every two weeks. When the company receives a message from one of its observation posts, it notifies the other three posts immediately.
 13. When enemy aircraft are leaving Bulgaria, the same warning procedure is used, but another set of codes is used.

25X1 [redacted] Comment: For further information on the VNOS organization, see [redacted]

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

ORGANIZATION OF VNOs
Sketch No.1.

MINISTRY OF DEFENSE
(M H O)

Main Observation Post
"Pobeda" (Victory)

1. Sofia
Commanding Officer.

3. Turnovo

Deputy Political Company
in Charge of Personnel

Chief of Staff

Deputy in Charge
of Technical Matters

"Commandant"
Procurement Chief

Staff Company

Training Company

New Recruits Company

First Observation Company

Second Observation Company

Third Observation Company

Fourth Observation Company

Third Radio/
Telephone Company

Second Radio/
Telephone Company

First Radio/
Telephone Company

Fourth Observation Company

Observation Post

Platoon Political Agitators

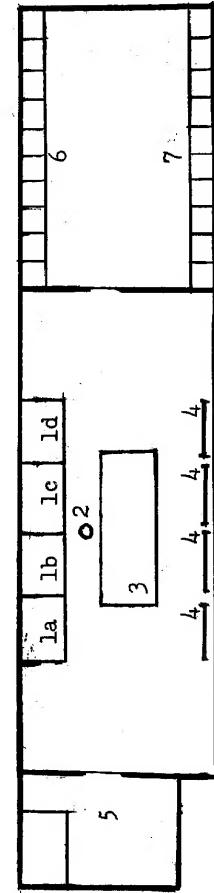
Observation Post

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

-5-

25X1

COMPANY OPERATIONS CENTER
Sketch No.2



SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

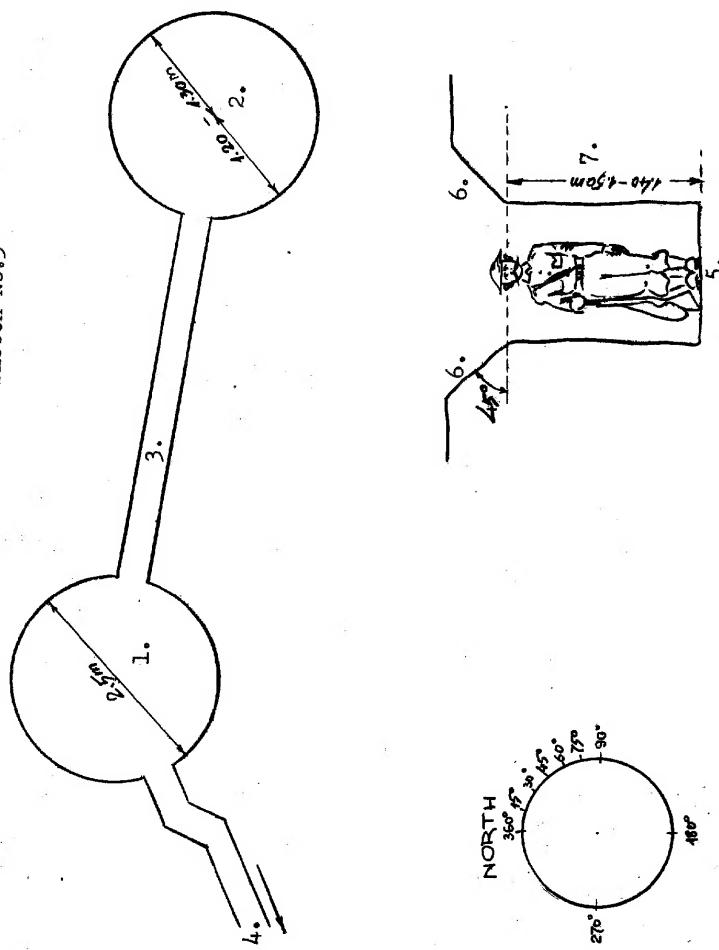
-6-

25X1

OBSERVATION (SPOTTING) POST
Sketch No. 3

Legend:

1. Observation Platform, 0.80 meters deep
2. Listening Pit for Night Operations and Fog, 1.60 to 1.80 meters deep.
3. Trench.
4. Trench to HQ Shack and Billets.
5. Cross Section of Listening Pit.
6. 45° Angle Slopes.
7. 1.40 to 1.50 meters.



SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY